

K6YQT

PAARA NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 51 NUMBER 10, October 2002

W6OTX



PAARAGraphs

Celebrating 65 years as an *active* ham radio club—*Since 1937*
Newsletter for the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



CALENDAR

- October.....4, PAARA Meeting, 7:30
Menlo Park Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park
- October.....9, PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30
Red Cross Bld., 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto
- OCTOBER.....12 PAARA-FOOTHILL FLEA MARKET
- November...1, PAARA Meeting, 7:30
- November...6, PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30
- December...6, PAARA Meeting, 7:30
- December..11, PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30
- The ARRL has a code practice:
URL <http://www.pcpractice.com/CW/>
-Don KF6JMQ



PROGRAM

October 4, 2002 7:30 P.M.

Speaker:

Bill Rausch, AA6PA

"How to get onto AO-40 the cheap way."

Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

at Su Hong Restaurant, 1039 El Camino Real, Menlo Park
Food will be served at 6:00 sharp, so guests will be on time for the PAARA meeting. Those arriving late will be responsible for their own order and bill.

—PAARA Radio NET every Monday evening at 8:30 P.M., local time—
on the 145.230 -600 MHz repeater, PL tone off —



Soap Box Observations

High Tech Adventures
by Jay Melvin,

WA6SBO@arrl.net

New modes of High Speed code utilize ionized meteor trails and the moon to provide reliable communications. The internet and satellites offer an underdeveloped emergency communications media and our sound cards promise frequency reuse to undo spectrum scarcity. These technologies promise lots of fun and will significantly enhance radio sport.

The deal is that with minimum expense for equipment and some time and entry level licensing the ground is laid for high tech excitement as we pursue our love of radio. Required are simple ham stations, good (but not improbable) antennas and computers with the Digital Signal Processing capabilities of computer sound cards.

Two activities, just developed by Nobel laureate Joe Taylor, K1JT, involve using sound cards in either laptop or desktop Intel / Microsoft boxes. The computer converts typed text to CW at 40,000 WPM so the 1 second or so ionized trails from meteors can reflect the RF back to other stations. QSOs take some ten minutes or so to complete. Now requiring schedules to make contact, this technology needs to be "productized", that is, developed into a routine practice, proceduralized so arbitrary QSO activity such as on Field Day and other contests can occur. This High Speed CW, says K1JT, allows 100 W rigs with single boom 14-element 2M Yagis to work moon bounce as well! See QST 2002 June page 81 & 83 and URL <<http://pulsar.princeton.edu/~joe/k1jt/>> for the source of this info and plenty of details.

Another activity requires two sound cards in a desktop computer along with public domain software and some glue. A functional specification of Voice Over PSK-31 was just published. See QST 2002 August page 65 and URL <www.readplease.com>. The requirements specification was underdeveloped and the details as well as the imple-

(Continued on page 89) *High Tech*

Miscellaneous Dates

| | |
|--|--|
| ELECTRONIC FLEA MARKET @ Foothill College | |
| Perham Foundation Sponsorship 408/734-4453, 408/736-2685 fax | |
| Second Saturday of month, March-October, 6 AM-2PM | |
| Oct 12 PAARA | |
| PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association | |
| meets 1st Friday 7:30 each month, Net 145.230 each Monday 8:30, contact: Andreas Junge N6NU.....(650) 233 0843 | |
| FARS Foothills Amateur Radio Society | |
| meets 4th Friday 7:30 each month, contact: Sheldon Edelman N6RD, 650 493 7212, n6rd@earthlink.net | |
| NCDXC Northern California DX Club | |
| meets 2nd Friday 7:30 each month, repeater for member info 147.360, Thur 8:00PM, contact: Bob Mammarella KB6FEC 408 729 1544 | |
| NorCalQRP Northern California QRP Club | |
| meets 1st Sunday each month, contact: Jim Cates 3241 Eastwood Rd., Sacramento, CA 95821 | |
| Perham Foundation, contact: (408) 734 4453, | |
| SPECS Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System | |
| meets each Monday 8:00PM on Net 145.27, 440.80 MHz, www.specsnet.org contact: Tom Cascone, KF6LWZ, 650-688-0441, specs@svpal.org | |
| SCARES South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service | |
| meets 3rd Thursday 7:30 each month, San Carlos City Hall. Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings. contact: | |
| SCCARA Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association | |
| Operates W6UU repeater 146.385+ Nets: 2m, W6UU, 7:30 Mon; 10m, 28.385, 8:00 Thur. meets 2nd Mon each month. contact: Barbara Britten, KD6QEJ at 293-3847 | |
| SVECS Silicon Valley Emergency Communications | |
| Operates WB6ADZ repeater (146.115 MHz+) contact: Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999 | |
| WVARA West Valley Amateur Radio Association | |
| operates W6PIY repeater 147.39+, 223.96, 441.875, 1286.2 meets 3rd Wed every month. contact: Glen Lokke Jr KE6NBO at 408 971 8626, or glokke@pacbell.net | |
| Disaster Services, | |
| PALO ALTO CHAPTER , American Red Cross, www.paarc.org | |
| 400 Mitchell Lane Meets 3rd Wed. each month 7:30PM, HF, packet, BBS, ATV, OSCAR Gateway, NASA satellite contact: Mac Millian 650-688-0423, MACM@paarc.org | |
| SAN JOSE CHAPTER , American Red Cross | |
| contact: Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924, FSHENSLEY@NOVELL.COM | |
| VE Exams , 3rd Saturday each month, 10:30AM, 145.23- PL=100Hz | |
| Redwood City Main Library, Community Conference Room 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, CA contact: Al WB6IMX@att.net | |
| Swap meet , LosPositas College, Livermore, 1st Sunday each month Contact: Cliff Kibbe (209) 835 6715 or Eliot Ross (925) 606 7710 | |
| (please send changes to PAARAGraphs editor: k6uro@arrl.net) | |

Instructions on how to subscribe to PAARA mailing list

Here are the steps in the long form:

- 1) go to <http://mailman.qth.net/>
 - 2) click on: "To Subscribe to Lists Click Here!"
 - 3) Find PAARA on list and click on it
 - 4) enter your email address and pick a password
 - 5) hit the "Subscribe" button
- The short form of the instructions are:
- 1) go to <http://mailman.qth.net/> and follow the instructions.
- Andreas, N6NU

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| President | Vacant |
| Vice President | Andreas Junge N6NU.....(650) 233 0843 n6nu@arrl.net |
| Secretary | Jay Melvin, WA6SBO.....(650) 726 4361 wa6sbo@arrl.net |
| Treasurer | Bob Korte, KD6KYT.....(650) 595 1842 RGK4U@aol.com |
| Membership | Vic Black, AB6SO.....(650) 366 0636 ab6so@smrn.com |
| W6OTX Station Trustee | Gerry Tucker, N6NV.....(650) 326 4908 tucker.gerry@ssd.loral.com |
| K6YQT Station Trustee | Gerry Tucker, N6NV.....(650) 326 4908 tucker.gerry@ssd.loral.com |
| Property | Gerry Tucker, N6NV.....(650) 326 4908 tucker.gerry@ssd.loral.com |
| Badges | Don Trask, KF6JMQ.....(408) 251 6494 kf6jmq@arrl.net |
| ARES Officer | Lily Anne Hillis, N6PGM(650) 325 5484 N6PGM@arrl.net |
| Club Historian | Vacant? |
| Advertising | Bob Korte, KD6KYT.....(650) 595 1842 k6kyt@arrl.net |
| Webmaster | Curt Kolovson, AE6EJ..... ae6ej@arrl.net |

Board of Directors

| | | |
|--|------------------|-----|
| Gerry Tucker, N6NV | (650) 326 4908 | '03 |
| Rolf Klivo, N6NFI | (650) 856-2748 | '03 |
| Jim Rice, K6AK | k6ak@arrl.net | '03 |
| Adrianus Schrauwen, W6AJS (completing Joel's term) | hagenees@att.net | '03 |
| (Joel Wilhite, KA7IXV | resigned 5/8/02 | '03 |

(see "Calendar" for Board meeting times, visitors welcome)

PAARAGraphs Staff

| | |
|----------|---|
| Editor | Wally Porter, K6URO.....(650) 494 7038 k6uro@arrl.net |
| Database | Don Trask, KF6JMQ.....(408) 251 6494 kf6jmq@arrl.net |
| Columns | Vic Black, AB6SO.....(650) 366 0636 ab6so@smrn.com |
| | Jay Melvin, WA6SBO.....(650) 726 4361 wa6sbo@arrl.net |

PAARAGraphs e-mail address: k6uro@arrl.net

Submit material for PAARAGraphs by the 15th

Use WORD, rich text, ascii, .pub, .ps, or .jpg.

PAARA Website: www.paara.org

NEW PAARA WEB

Thanks to Andreas Junge, N6NU

and

Curt Kolovson, AE6EJ, Webmaster

PAARA has a new web site. Check it out.

www.paara.org

(Continued from page 87) *High Tech*

mentation of the new technology entail lots of fun and some work. The idea is to perform a software conversion of voice into text for real time transmission via PSK-31 and the reception of PSK-31 and conversion back to voice. Half duplex transmission and reception with one tenth of the bandwidth of base band voice communications would result from the text to Phase Shift Keying and back. The payoff includes much more room in our limited spectrum with high reliability.

Yet another new mode is the Internet Radio Link Protocol. IRLP provides a network that uses repeaters connected to the internet to bridge users around the world. I heard a ham sitting in the LAX airport with a handheld working another ham in Antarctica both with one-watt power levels. IRLP needs more activity so we can drill in the procedures of traffic handling and regular use to hone our skills. Given the extant infrastructure, we lack practice in the procedures for assuring reliable communications. Just more fun and some work. See WorldRadio 2002 July page 36 and <www.irlp.net>.

Over forty years ago hams launched the first Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio (OSCAR) and even now there is plenty of room to practice traffic handling during network operations with emergency drills to prepare for the next Big One. With Amateur Satellite Corporation's OSCAR-40 providing hours of access with the single pointing of an antenna, the High Speed CW and / or the Voice Over PSK-31 technologies fit nicely into the cluster of new skills and practices we can develop for rag chewing and contesting and emergency operations. These new technologies exemplify how each of us can get our feet wet in the love and development of new practices in this only hundred year old art and science of radio. – SK

– Jay Melvin, WA6SBO

ANNUAL "JAMBOREE ON THE AIR"

CONNECTS SCOUTS AROUND THE WORLD



NEWINGTON, Conn., October 13, 2000 -- More than a half-million Boy and Girl Scouts worldwide will create the ultimate global community by talking to each other via Amateur Radio as part of the 43rd annual Jamboree on the air, October 21-22.

The international event is organized locally by troop leaders and volunteers who want to interest young people in technology and communications. Jamboree participants also learn about different regions and cultures by contacting other scout troops via a variety of Amateur Radio modes, including voice, Morse code, amateur television and "packet," (or computer-to-computer communications).

"The Jamboree on the Air puts Amateur Radio in an international spotlight and gives Scouts the opportunity to make friends locally or in other countries," says Jean Wolfgang, Educational Programs Coordinator for the American Radio

(Continued on page 92) Jamboree

A Trip to Vietnam

Robert Voss, N4CD

from World Radio Online

It's fun to have DX chase you. How about a Ham vacation to an exotic location Vietnam?

Some might ask why Vietnam? Since 1990, Vietnam has turned to a stable economic growth-oriented society, once again allowing Amateur Radio. There are only a dozen licensed Hams in the entire country.

Many of you who read Worldradio know that I am a County Hunter, who zips around the country giving out counties on SSB and CW. Every now and then, the travel bug bites. As a county hunter, counties count no matter where you are operating, even as DX!

If you check the web and ads in the radio magazines you will find a dozen 'rent-a-shacks' around the world. Hiroo, JA2EZD, set up the station in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Preparations for the trip began back in May, as the necessary procedures take months. Hau, 3W6LI, who maintains the station walked me through the necessary steps to get my 3W license.

First you must get a visa from the Vietnamese consulate - a 30 day process and \$65. Of course, you need a valid passport (\$80), and plane tickets (\$\$). Hau arranged the licensing in Vietnam (\$80). Visitors are usually only licensed for 10-, 15-, and 20-meter operation in HCM city. At other locations, 40M operation is allowed (7000-7100). I wish I could have had official license to operate WARC bands, but as far as I can tell, they do not currently issue licenses for those bands. The locals said the government really doesn't care where you operate, but rather than jeopardize future chances to officially get permission, I just listened occasionally on the WARC bands.

At the end of September, it was off to the airport and over 9,000 miles of flying from Dallas, Texas to arrive in Ho Chi Minh City. With the rental places, all you need to bring is yourself, and your logging material/computer. There are no hassles with radio equipment through customs as it is all there. Some countries are easy to bring in equipment while others are near impossible, and equipment is sometimes impounded or confiscated.

Hau met me at the airport. He held up a sign with my U.S. call and my Vietnam Call, 3W2DC. We were then off to the Hotel Kimdo. There, you get a regular hotel room, plus full 24 hour a day use of the Amateur Radio station located upstairs in a separate room on the top floor. The station antenna is a tri-bander up 150 feet and the rig is a Yaesu FT900 with an available SB200 amplifier. Within minutes of arriving, 3W2DC made the first contact with BI5Q on 15M SSB.

Never having operated from the "other side of the world," which is 12 time zones different from Texas time, I expected things to be different, and they were! Lots of exotic calls came through - JT, DU, VR, YC, all calling me! Everything but Ws, Ks, and N calls. After a few contacts, it

(Continued on page 93) Trip



ARRL News Letter

ARRL OFFICIALS UPBEAT

ABOUT REACHING 5-MHZ COMPROMISE

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, say they're optimistic about reaching a resolution to issues that could otherwise block plans for a new 5 MHz band. Until surprise opposition surfaced from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the FCC appeared to have put ARRL's request for a new, domestic-only, secondary amateur allocation at 60 meters on the fast track.

In an eleventh-hour move a month ago, the NTIA recommended in a letter to the FCC—sent after the comment deadline—that the Commission not go forward with a proposal for an Amateur Radio allocation at 5250 to 5400 kHz. The NTIA regulates radio spectrum allocated to the federal government.

"We are working together with the Federal agencies involved toward a solution of the impasse raised by the NTIA letter," Imlay said after he and Haynie attended a series of meetings September 19 in Washington, DC.

Acting NTIA Associate Administrator for Spectrum Management Fredrick R. Wentland had said in an August 21 letter that critical federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, the US Coast Guard and the Department of Defense, were making extensive use of 5 MHz frequencies. He worried that the 5 MHz proposal the FCC put forth last May at the ARRL's request "does not adequately provide for protection from harmful interference to these critical government operations."

After initially huddling this week with NTIA and FCC officials and staff members, Haynie and Imlay met face-to-face with representatives of the agencies involved to share mutual concerns.

"They are willing to work with us," Haynie said. "Chris and I left feeling a whole lot better." Haynie said hammering out some differences will involve some further meetings—including one with the US Navy—but that he and Imlay were feeling much more positive about the situation.

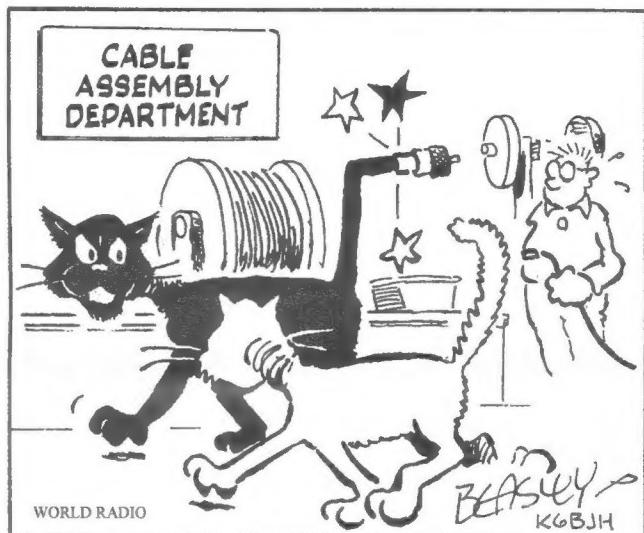
"I feel confident we'll get something," Haynie said. "I don't think we'll get everything we want, but it's certainly a start, and it's a lot better than what it was this time last week."

One difficulty in the negotiations is that some of the information on the government's use of the 5-MHz frequencies involved is classified. "We were given some hints about the sensitivity and the seriousness of some of the activity that's going on," Haynie said, "and we fully appreciate that now—more so than before—because we just didn't, and couldn't, know. The important thing is that we have established a good working relationship with the Justice Department and the Coast Guard."

Imlay said the discussions tended to center on power restrictions and frequencies but emphasized that no decisions

were reached. The ARRL proposal called for a 150-kHz wide band and the full legal power limit. Imlay hinted, however, that perhaps a smaller band than the one requested coupled with some power output limitations, was a real possibility.

The ARRL has called the 5 MHz allocation "an urgent priority of the Amateur Service" and has asked that the proceeding to grant it be expedited. Until the latest snafu, the FCC had been expected by early next year to issue a Report and Order on proposals for the 5-MHz band, a new low-frequency allocation in the vicinity of 136 kHz and primary Amateur and Amateur-Satellite status at 2400 to 2402 MHz.



THAT GUY MUST BE NEARSIGHTED -- THAT'S THE SECOND TIME HE'S CRIMPED A CO-AX CONNECTOR TO MY TAIL!


**ELECTRONIC
FLEA MARKET**
 at
Foothill College
October 12
 by
PAARA

ULS Registration 101

FCC Info · Universal Licensing System Q&A · Regulatory Information Branch

ULS Step-By-Step

In the early days of ULS registration, deployed in the Amateur Service on August 16, 1999, the FCC registration system was not easy to navigate. Now, however, the FCC has taken great strides to make ULS and CORES, the Commission Registration System, easier to use. The FCC has done a very good job of updating their Web page and there is a specific section for the Amateur Radio Service which can be found at <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur/licensing/filing.html>>. In order to take advantage of FCC services, you must be registered under ULS and CORES. This means that, effective December 3, 2001, the use of an FCC Registration Number (FRN) became mandatory. **You must, therefore, have an FRN and be registered in CORES number before you can renew your license, change your address, obtain a duplicate license or any of the other services that the FCC offers.**

Here's a ULS/CORES primer for those registering on-line. In response to requests from the amateur community for simplified, yet detailed, steps to register for the ULS, the ARRL offers the following procedure for individual Amateur Radio licensees:

Open your Netscape Communicator or Microsoft Explorer Web browser.

Go to the Universal Licensing System home page at <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>>

Click "CORES/Call Sign" (formerly TIN Registration) on the main ULS screen.

The page will ask you if you are registering under CORES for the first time or if you are updating an existing registration.

If you are registering for the first time, you will be required to provide your Social Security Number. If you do not have an SSN, you must specify the reason.

On the next screen, check "Register Now" and click "Continue".

On the next screen, check "An Individual" and click "Continue".

You also do not need to be concerned with something called "SGIN" that you might encounter.

Enter your SSN without any hyphens or spaces (ie, 123456789).

Complete your name and address information. First name, middle initial, last name, and any "Suffix" such as "Sr", "Jr", or "II", as appropriate. You may provide a PO Box address, a street address, or both. You must include a ZIP code. The system will detect if the ZIP code does not match the state provided.

You must put something in the telephone number field, even though the FCC has said that a telephone number is not now required of amateurs and that it will not make telephone numbers public. If you do not wish to give the FCC your telephone number, you can fill this field with zeros or with your area code plus 555-1212. A fax number is not required. The FCC does not require an e-mail address, so if you prefer not to provide it, leave that field blank.

Once you've provided all the "Licensee Information" scroll down to the bottom of the screen.

At the bottom of the screen you must pick a password of at least five characters. We recommend that you do not use your call sign for this. Enter your new password in the "New Password" field. The characters you type will be displayed as asterisks (*) on the screen, so type carefully.

Verify the password you've selected by entering it again in the "Verify Password" field. Again, the characters you type will be displayed as asterisks (*) on the screen.

Type in a personal identifier in the next field. The FCC suggests using your mother's maiden name, but any word or name you prefer will suffice, provided it fits the field.

If you click "Notice to Individuals" it will tell you that everything but your Social Security Number will be available for public inspection. The FCC has told the ARRL that it will not make telephone numbers or e-mail addresses public. We have no reason to date to believe that this has not been the case.

Once you're happy with your choices, click "Submit".

If you leave out anything or make an error, the ULS will list "Error(s)" when you attempt to submit the form. If this happens, go back and correct the errors identified and click "Submit" again.

Once you have the form correctly completed, you'll be asked to submit your call sign(s). Click "Enter Call Signs" and follow the directions. If you are not yet licensed (you don't have a call sign yet) you can click "Continue" without entering a call sign. If you have no call sign yet, skip over the next item.

You should now be on the screen that requests you to enter your call sign(s). Enter your individual Amateur Radio call sign in the first space provided. If you are a club station trustee, you may enter your club station call signs, but this is not necessary. The FCC requires a separate registration and an Assigned TIN for club stations.

Once your call sign(s) are entered, click "Submit" at the bottom of the form.

You now should be registered in the ULS. Your screen should display a form that shows your "Licensee Information" as well as Licensee ID Number, personal identifier and password. It's a good idea to print this screen and keep a copy in your files for safekeeping (primarily in case you forget your password).

That's it! You're done! You're now registered in the Universal Licensing System. ULS registration is required before amateurs can transact business (ie, file applications, renewals, vanity call sign requests, address changes, etc) with the FCC.

—Rick Lindquist, N1RL, with assistance from Bart Jahnke, W9JJ

see page 92

PAARAGraphs October 2002
Celebrating 65 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937

(Continued from page 89) Jamboree

Relay League. "Since its inception in 1957, the Jamboree and Amateur Radio have connected millions of Scouts and Guides across the globe. This event is an excellent way to expose young people to a technical hobby that may even lead to a future career."

Boy Scouts can earn a Radio Merit Badge by learning Amateur Radio, learning some Morse code and making contact with other Amateur Radio operators. Girl Scouts can use Amateur Radio to earn badges and participate in special-interest projects that range from high-tech communication to space exploration.

Based in Newington, Conn., the ARRL produces learning materials to assist Scouts who are interested in earning their badges or Amateur Radio licenses.

If you are interested in participating in the Jamboree on the Air or earning your Amateur Radio license, a club in your area can help. For information on a club near you call the American Radio Relay League at 1-800-32 NEW HAM or send e-mail to <jota@arrl.org>. Information on Scouting and Amateur Radio is available in ARRL's Scout Handbook.

REPEATER? REMOTE BASE? FCC ORDERS CALIFORNIA SYSTEM TO SHUT DOWN

The FCC has ordered a UHF Amateur Radio system in the Los Angeles area shut down until it either obtains coordination or comes up with an acceptable plan to prevent interfering with a coordinated repeater just 10 kHz away. FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth says the owner of the 447.250-MHz system on Mt Disappointment, Steven R. Decho, KE6FX, has complied with the FCC request, which was included in a September 4 Warning Notice.

"For over two years, your Mt Disappointment KE6FX station has been characterized by lack of control and identification problems," Hollingsworth wrote. "The real basis of this matter seems to be that you object to a recent change in spacing standards by the coordinator and do not wish to conform to them." The regional coordinator, the Southern California Repeater and Remote Base Association (SCRRBA), has told the FCC that the coordination for KE6FX was abandoned.

The FCC considers the KE6FX station a repeater, while Decho, who resides in Draper, Utah, calls it "a remote base." As a remote base, he has claimed, KE6FX does not require coordination. But the FCC said Decho did submit outdated coordination documents in his response last year to FCC communications.

In either case, Hollingsworth again pointed out, the KE6FX system is causing interference to the coordinated WA6UZS repeater 10 kHz away. If it's a repeater, Hollingsworth explained, KE6FX is obliged to prevent interference to the WA6UZS repeater under §97.205 of the



FCC rules. If it's an auxiliary station or a remote base, "the fact remains that it interferes with the WA6UZS repeater," Hollingsworth said.

In previous communications with Decho going back about a year and a half, Hollingsworth among other things cited "reports of dead carriers that last for weeks, a tone that lasted continuously for three weeks, weekends of 2-meter rebroadcasts and a repeating CW identification that lasted for weeks." Over the July 4 holiday this summer, the system re-broadcast other repeater traffic and ignored attempts by WA6UZS repeater personnel to contact Decho, the FCC said.

In August 2001, the FCC said the KE6FX beacon identifier that activated without operational input, the rebroadcasting of other repeater traffic, dead carriers, continuous tones or repetitive CW identifiers "must cease immediately" and normal repeater traffic, if any, must not interfere with WA6UZS.

Password problems?

In reference to item # (pg 91) of these instructions, phone numbers are optional—but if you have not yet registered in ULS the lack of a phone number on your first license application (the first application you would file since Amateur ULS began on August 16, 1999) can cause some heartburn if you intend to file on line at a later date. If you do not include a phone number on your application, and if you were not preregistered in ULS on line (where you establish your own password), in order to perform an on line filing now you will need to obtain a temporary password from the FCC. To do so, it will be necessary to write or fax a letter to them, offering the following information in your letter:

To: FCC

Re: Temporary password for ULS on line access
 I (enter your NAME) am responsible for TIN/Social Security Number (enter your SSN).

I am writing to request a temporary password
 (or enter whatever other reason).

Print your name

Print your address

Print your city/state/zip

Print your phone number (FCC will then call you daytime,
 weekdays at the following phone number, and will give
 you your password over the phone)

Now include your signature (signature)

Send your fax to: 202-418-1412

Or mail the letter to:

FCC

Attn: G. Nelson

445 12th St SW

Washington DC 20554

The above can be avoided by registering in ULS on line
 (and supplying your own password) before you file your
 first application in the ULS system.

(Continued from page 89) Trip

was time to sleep and recover from 36 hours of non-stop travel, only a few hours of sleep, and the big jet lag! Tomorrow would be the start of 10 days of intensive radio operations and some sightseeing.

One quickly discovers how different the bands sound. People call CQ on 14.020 < on SSB. On 40M, it's hard to find CW signals most of the time, and harder to find an English language QSO. The 10M band is full of extremely loud birdies and other garbage much of the day, making QSOs very difficult. The splatter you sometimes hear in the U.S. on 10M is 20 over S9 and all over.

During the day, when the band is open out a few thousand miles, you discover there aren't too many stations in Mongolia, Siberia, Indonesia, and those other exotic countries to work, especially on weekdays. All the real action comes when the band opens 5,000-10,000 miles in the evenings, and on the weekends. At 9 p.m. local time, the band opened to Europe for three hours. In the background, U.S. stations occasionally made it through. Special attention and calling "CQ USA" resulted in stronger U.S. stations making it through.

I was determined to give out Vietnam for those in the U.S. who needed it. That turned out to be a very tough assignment. The QTH is located right in downtown Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon. Lots of local QRN made digging signals out challenging, but 200 U.S. stations went in the log over the 10-day period during the few daily hours of openings back to the states. Over 5,000 contacts were logged, mostly on CW due to the high noise. On CW,

the S meter never dropped below S4, and on SSB, never below S7-8. And that was in the good' directions. Noise seems to be a big problem in third world countries!

While there, I did a few days of sightseeing around the city and nearby. Motorbikes by the millions, everywhere! Pedicabs are used for local nearby destinations. While not known as a tourist destination' for many U.S. folks, a fair number of Japanese and Europeans come and enjoy the year-round tropical weather.

In October, it rained every afternoon or evening for a while, making it necessary at times to QRT due to lightning. Saigon is a hustling, bustling port city with many factories to churn out textiles, electronics, and other products for the west. All sorts of good food, just about any variety you want, is readily available and inexpensive.

There are many "starter" Ham radio clubs in Vietnam. For most locals, equipment is very expensive based upon an office worker's typical \$100/month salary. The 2-meter band is assigned to taxi cabs, end to end (not Hams). (Don't bring your HT - there won't be anyone to talk to, and you obviously won't get a license to use it!)

The pileups never ended, but my two weeks were soon up, and I headed back home to start answering the piles of QSL cards headed my way! Yes, it was definitely different and exotic. One quickly learns to appreciate the difficult job of working DX (the USA) from far away locations. Maybe the secret is to not go so far away, but still to 'rare' locations. That should make it a lot easier to work the U.S. stations!

SCOUT NETS

Weekly or monthly nets exist in which licensed Scouts meet on the air:

| Country | day | time | frequency | netcontrol |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| Denmark | Saturday | 13.00 GMT | 3.740 MHz | |
| European Scout Net | Saturday | 09.30 GMT | 14.290 MHz | PA3BAR |
| Germany | 1st Sunday of month | 16.00 GMT | 3.678 MHz | DF0VCP |
| | 3rd Wednesday of month | 20.00 local | packet- | DB0EAM |
| Japan | 3rd Saturday of month | 23.00 local | 21.360 MHz | JA1YSS |
| United Kingdom | Saturday | 09.00 local | 3.740 MHz | G4PSG |
| Netherlands | Saturday | 19.00 local | 3.740 MHz | PI4RIS |
| Norway | Saturday | 15.30 local | 3.740 MHz | |
| Sweden | Saturday, even weeks | 15.00 local | 3.740 MHz | |
| United States | Sunday | 20.30 GMT | 14.290 MHz | K2BSA |

PAARGraphs October 2002
Celebrating 65 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937

PACIFICON SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

** See www.pacificon.org for latest details **

Friday - October 18

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 8:00 am to 5:00 pm | Antenna Seminar (additional \$10.00) |
| 7:30 am to 7:00 pm | Registration Desk Open |
| 9:00 am to 12:00 pm | Volunteer Counsel Forum |

Saturday - October 19

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| 6:00 am to 5:00 pm | Registration Desk Open |
| 6:00 am 12:00 pm | Swap Meet is back! |
| 6:45 am to 8:00 am | Breakfast Keynote <i>Featuring opening speech by ARRL's Jim Haynie</i> |
| 8:30 am to 6:00 pm | FORUMS |
| 9:00 am to 5:00 pm | Exhibit Hall Open |
| 9:00 am to 5:00 pm | Special Events Station |
| 9:00 am to 12:00 pm | VE Testing |
| 7:00 pm | Banquet Dinner |
| MIDNIGHT | Wouff-Hong Ceremony |

Sunday - October 20

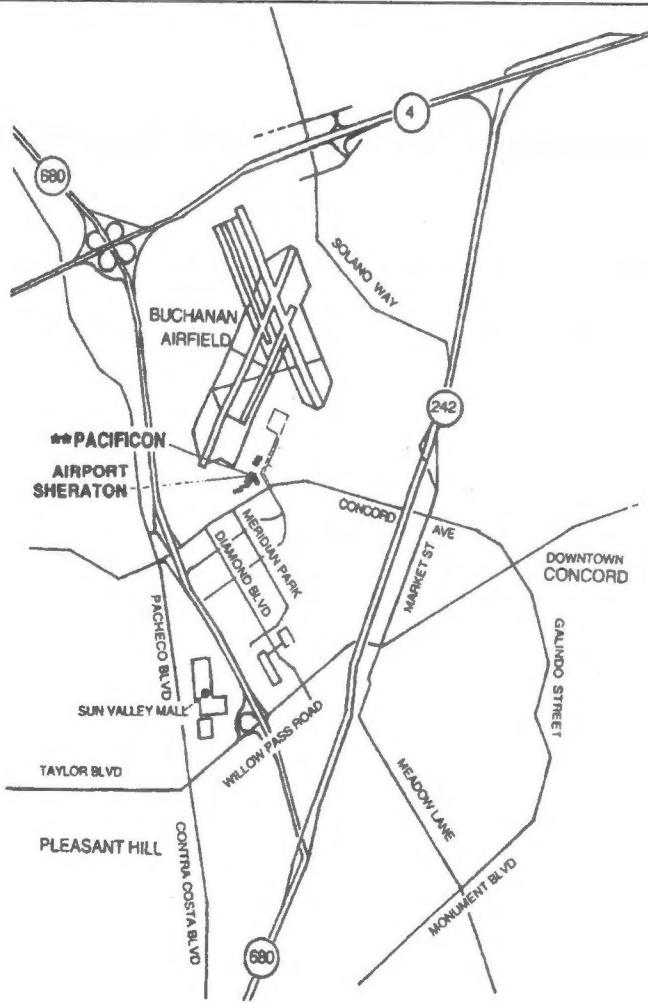
| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 7:00 am | Registration Desk Opens |
| 8:00 am | T-Hunt (beginner) |
| 9:00 am | T-Hunt (advanced) |
| 9:00 am to 1:00 pm | Exhibit Hall Open |
| 9:00 am to 1:00 pm | Special Events Station |
| 9:00 am to 12:00 pm | VE Testing |
| 8:30 am to 1:00 pm | FORUMS |
| 1:00 pm | ARRL Forum |
| | Grand Prize Drawing, followed by Closing Ceremonies |

ARRL Walk-In VE Test Session

With No High Speed Code Per New FCC Rules!

At every PACIFICON we have Volunteer Examiners for all hams who want to upgrade to a higher class license, or those who want to get their first license. Examination sessions are available on Saturday and Sunday mornings. If you *almost* passed the exam on the first try, you may retake the exam on Sunday. Details:

- 9:00 am to 12 noon, Saturday and Sunday - nominal fee
- Technician through Extra Class
- You will need one photo ID and one other form of ID. If currently licensed, bring originals and a copy of your current or expired FCC Amateur Radio license. Also bring the original and copy of any CSCE.
- Retakes are only available on Sunday



Advance Registration Form
PACIFICON 2002, October 18-20, 2002

Please type or print name and address

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Antenna Seminar _____ @ \$10.00 = \$ _____
(Friday only)

PACIFICON admission _____ @ \$10.00 = \$ _____
(\$15.00 at the door)

Opening Breakfast _____ @ \$12.50 = \$ _____

Banquet (Saturday eve) - How many?

Beef @ \$35.00 = \$ _____

Chicken @ \$35.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL= \$ _____

Include self-addressed stamped envelope if ticket return by mail is desired

PACIFICON admission does not include Friday Antenna Seminar, Saturday Opening Breakfast or Saturday Banquet, which must all be prepaid.

Make check payable to: **PACIFICON 2002**

Mail To: **PACIFICON 2002**
 P.O. Box 272613
 Concord, CA 94527

Deadline for advance reservations is Oct. 1st

HELP WANTED

**PAARA Treasurer, Bob Korte,
 KD6KYT**

could use some help. Over time he has taken on duties beyond the normal responsibilities of his office.

Most help needed would be seasonal such as Field Day or Flea Market. Some help could be monthly, such as meeting lottery and prizes, or enrolling new members and recording changes of member records.

If you can help contact Bob or Andreas now.

Bob Korte, KD6KYT .(650) 595 1842

RGK4U@aol.com

Andreas Junge N6NU.....(650) 233 0843



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Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

QSO October 4th

gab & gobble



Food will be served at 6:00 sharp, so guests will be on time for the PAARA meeting. Those arriving late will be responsible for their own order and bill.

6 pm— at Su Hong Restaurant

**1039 El Camino Real
 Menlo Park**

—across from Kepler's Book Store—



PAARA Radio NET

every Monday evening

8:30 P.M., local time

on the

145.230 -600 MHz repeater

PL tone off

control operators

1st Mon KG6ILA, Pinkney Foster

2nd Mon N6NU, Andreas Junge

3rd Mon AD6FX, Jon Zweig

4th Mon AA6PA, Bill Rausch

5th Mon tba

PAARAGraphs Ad Rates

PAARAGraphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members.
(short personal ads remain free for members in good standing)

All ad rates listed are per issue only.

1. Not for profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size).

2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover.

These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the association.

The PAARAGraphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not in the best interest of the Association. All fees payable in advance by the year with "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads. Give payment and copy to Bob Korte

PAARA - Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association • P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, California 94026-0911

- Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm at the Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA. •
 • Radio NET every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230-600 MHz repeater, PL tone off. •

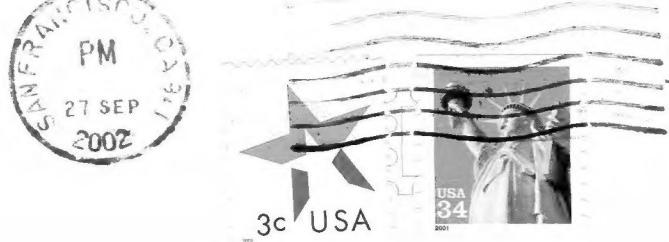
Membership in PAARA is \$12.00 per calendar year which includes a subscription to PAARAGraphs, \$6 for additional family members (no newsletter).

Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association.

Permission is granted to reprint from this publication with appropriate source credit.

PAARAGraphs October 2002

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
PAARAGraphs Newsletter
P.O. Box 911
Menlo Park, California 94026



FIRST CLASS MAIL

New PAARA Web Site

www.paara.org

PAARA-FOOTHILL FLEA MARKET
OCTOBER 12

Webb site for propagation information:
www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/

Korsak, Andy KR6DD
504 Lakemead Way
Redwood City, CA 94062-3919

3406243319 27



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